

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-37 stand rejected. Claims 18, 28 and 32 have been cancelled; claims 1-2, 9, 12, 14-15, 19-22, 27, 29, 31 and 33-34 have been amended; claims 1-17, 19-27, 29-31 and 33-37 remain pending.

All pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,135,884 ("Hedrick") in view of the RTD USA article ("RTD") in view of the article by Mardsen et al., "Development of a PC-Windows Based Universal Control System."

In response, each independent claim has been amended for both clarity's sake and to traverse this rejection. Specifically, the term "universal game controller" is used throughout each amended independent claim. Each amended independent claim requires the universal game controller to have hardware sufficient to control a plurality of games. None of the three prior art references of record teach or suggest such a universal game controller.

Further, each amended independent claim requires the I/O interface adaptor to comprise a multiple pin connection between the interface and the communication port of the universal game controller. Each independent claim further requires the universal game controller to monitor conditions through the interface assembly based upon which pins of the adaptor are transmitting signals to the universal game controller through the communication port. The prior art does not teach or suggest such a feature.

Support for all amendments appears on pages 8 and 17 of the application as filed.

Because no combination of the prior art teaches or suggests the universal game controller or I/O interface adaptor with a multiple pin connection or the concept of the controller monitoring conditions throughout the interface assembly based upon which pins of the adaptor are transmitting signals to the controller, applicants respectfully submit that the Patent Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness as set forth by the MPEP. Specifically, under MPEP §§ 2142 and 2143,

[t]o establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

Citing, In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); see also MPEP § 2143-§ 2143.03 for decisions pertinent to each of these criteria.

Because applicants respectfully submit that the common limitations of each pending independent claim are not found, taught or suggested by any hypothetical combination of Hedrick, RTD and Madsen, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in a condition for allowance and an early action so indicating is respectfully requested.

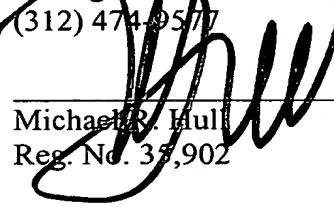
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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